THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Israel and India have agreed to establish a dialogue on counter-terrorism. Details are being worked out by the concerned authorities in the two countries.

(c) No agreement was signed.

(d) Does not arise.

Consensus on CTBT

*70. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minster of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to build up a consensus on CTBT;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of the views expressed by various political parties, scientists and armed forces on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of steps to develop such a consensus have been undertaken, including through statements and discussions in Parliamentary Committees, as well as meetings with representatives of political parties. The views expressed during this debate have been widely reported in the media. The Government intends to pursue this approach of consultation and dialogue.

Steps to eliminate Child Labour

*71. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news-items published in the Business Standard dated 30th April, 2000, under the caption "ILO estimate child labour in India at 90 million";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken in order to eradicate

child labour which is specifically prohibited under the Indian Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Government has noted the contents of the news item published in the Business Standard dated 30.04.2000 under the caption "ILO estimates child labour in India at 90 million".

(b) As per information received from the ILO, it has been stated that they had not issued any statement estimating 90 million child labourers in India.

(c) Employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in 13 occupations and 51 processes listed in the scheduled to the Child Labour (Prohibited & Regulation) Act, 1986. The occupations and processes considered hazardous are added to the schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 on the advice of the Technical Advisory Committee constituted under section 5 of the Act.

Government of India has been implementing two schemes for rehabilitation of Children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. 93 NCLPs are currently under implementation in 11 child labour endemic states for rehabilitation of 1.9 lakh children. Government has approved the continuance of the scheme of NCLP for the duration of the Ninth Five Year Plan and expansion of number of projects uptil 100.

Under the Scheme of Grant-in-aid, funds are released to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Government, for takingup action oriented projects for the benefit of working children. Over 70 projects are currently under implementation under the Scheme of grant-in-aid.

The above Schemes are continuing in the year 2000-2001 also.